



Date of occurrence: 2020

Employee Name: William Perez

Classification: Parking Enforcement Officer

Unit/Division: Parking Department

Award/Commendation type and recommendations: Civilian of the Year 2020

Narrative:

The Surfside Police Department FOP Awards Committee selected Parking Enforcement Officer William Perez as the Surfside Police Department's Civilian of the Year for 2020. PEO Perez is best known by his Surfside family as Willy. Willy began his commendable 25-year career with the Surfside Police Department in 1996 and his longevity with this organization is the epitome of stability and service.

On any given day, PEO Perez has a multitude of responsibilities and is assigned a variety of tasks as is common in a police agency like SPD. Even though his primary role is enforcement of parking violations within the Town of Surfside, he will assist with traffic control; handle town administration correspondence and packages; deliver and pick-up radios, lasers and radars in need of repair or certification; transporting vehicles that require repair and maintenance to various vendor locations in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties; and numerous logistical matters for the operational effectiveness of the police department.

In October 2020, Parking Enforcement Officer Perez was awarded the Civilian of the Month for his dedication to assisting others and commitment to community service. On October 22, 2020, Surfside Police Officers responded to a call for service of a woman in distress at the 9200 block of Collins Avenue. Upon arrival, they located a female that was incoherent and unable to answer simple questions. Officers were unable to locate any friends or family members of the woman and determined she needed immediate medical attention. She was transported to the hospital for treatment. That evening, PEO Perez, noticed multiple Facebook posts requesting assistance in locating a missing female (a photograph accompanied the posts) and listed she was last seen in the area of Mt. Sinai

Hospital. PEO Perez recalled the Surfside incident earlier in the day regarding a distressed female. The next morning PEO Perez informed officers who handled the incident involving the young woman in Surfside and showed them the information he discovered on the Facebook post. The photo indeed matched the female that was transported to the hospital from Surfside. Surfside Police Officers contacted the Miami Beach Police Department and notified them of the incident in Surfside that led to the closure of their missing person case. If not for the actions of PEO Perez, this young woman could have possibly remained unidentified and delayed the proper care.

PEO Perez also received a commendation in December for his outstanding assistance with the 12th Annual Holiday Toy Drive. The Surfside Police Department traditionally hosts an annual Holiday Toy Giveaway Party. This year, due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, the event was revamped for the safety of all involved. The toys collected were distributed in a two-day span on December 22nd and 23rd, 2020 to 26 grateful families in need (over 45 children excited children). PEO Perez contacted each family and coordinated delivery dates and times. The day of delivery, he provided invaluable instructions which included anticipated time of arrival to the anxiously awaiting families. Willy's assistance was instrumental in the success of the event and effectively kept us on schedule.

PEO Perez is a critical link between the police department and the community. This relationship is paramount in the day-to-day operations of the police department and even more imperative when residents and tourists alike need assistance, directions, or just community information. PEO William Perez is a professional, respectful and dedicated to the Surfside Police Department and the community he serves. Congratulations Parking Enforcement Officer William Perez as the recipient of the 2020 Surfside Police Department Civilian of the Year Award...well deserved!